SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANT	DEFENDANTS	
LAURETTE E. MELENDEZ		NCO FINAN	NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.	
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff	County of Residen	ice of First Listed Defendant	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na	me, Address, Telephone Number and Email Ad	dress) NOTE: IN I	AND CONDEMNATION CASES, US	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
Craig Thor Kimmel, E		LA	ND INVOLVED,	
Kimmel & Silverman,	P.C.	Attorneys (If Known))	
30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002				
(215) 540-8888		E		
II. BASIS OF JURISE	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		F PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases On Citizen of This State	PTF DEF O 1 O 1 Incorporated or Pri of Business In This	PTF DEF
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	CF 2 CD 2 Incorporated and P of Business In A	
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	0606
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Flace an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENAL/I	Y BANKRUPTCY	Constitute the continue of the continue of
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR		① 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	OTHER STATUTES ☐ 400 State Reapportionment
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	🗇 310 Airplane 📋 362 Personal Injury	- D 620 Other Food & Drug	① 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	☐ 410 Antitrust
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic Liability 365 Personal Injury			430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability Slander ☐ 368 Asbestos Person		PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer influenced and
☐ 151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product	650 Airline Regs.	☐ 830 Patent	Corrupt Organizations
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability Liability Liability 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER	(T) 660 Occupational Safety/Health	☐ 840 Trademark	480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV
(Excl. Veterans) (3) 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product G 370 Other Fraud Liability G 371 Truth in Lending	🗗 690 Other	englis regulary	☐ 810 Selective Service
of Veteran's Benefits	🗇 350 Motor Vehicle 💢 380 Other Personal	☐ 710 Fair Lebor Standards	C 861 HIA (1395ff)	Exchange
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damag Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damag		☐ 862 Black Lung (923) is ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	3 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3450
195 Contract Product Liability	□ 360 Other Personal Product Liability	730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	8 D 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
O 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY	Injury CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIO	& Disclosure Act NS	☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Forcelosure	44 Voting		1 '	893 Environmental Matters
	O 442 Employment Sentence O 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Defendant) 871 IRSThird Party	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act ☐ 895 Freedom of Information
 ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability 	Accommodations	IMMIGRATION	26 USC 7609	Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination
290 All Other Real Property	3 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - 3 \$40 Mandamus & O	ther 3 462 Naturalization Applica	ition	Under Equal Access
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	Other 440 Other Civil Rights	(J 465 Other Immigration Actions		State Statutes
	U 440 Outer Civil regins	Nettoris		
🕽 1 Original 🔲 2 Ro	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from	Recogned an	ansferred from	Appeal to District ict
VI CAUSE OF ACTS			ional statutes unless diversity):	8
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of cause: Fair Debt Collection Practices A	cŧ		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMANDS	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint; Ø Yes 🏻 No
VIII. RELATEÐ CAS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	1	DOCKET NUMBER	
Explanation:				
1-14-11	f			
DATE	SIGNATURE	E ADTORNEY DE DECORD		

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA - DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. lascade Run Cout. Dwings Mills Address of Plaintiff: Koad Address of Defendant: Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? $_{Ycs}\square$ (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes 🗆 RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Date Terminated: Case Number: Judge Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Ycs□ 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro-secivil rights case filed by the same individual? $Y_{cs}\square$ CIVIL: (Place ✔ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: A. Federal Question Cases: 1.

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1.

Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 2. U FELA 3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4.

Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. Patent Other Personal Injury (Please □ Labor-Management Relations specify) 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8.

Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 9.

All other Diversity Cases 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases 10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. G All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C. \$1692 (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) counsel of record do hereby certify: 🗅 Pursuant to Local Civil Rule \$3.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is soon Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

CIV. 609 (6/08)

Attorney I.D.#

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM					
Lauretta E. Melendez	IL ACTION				
NCO Financial Systems.Inc					
In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.					
SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:					
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.					
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.					
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.					
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					
 (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) 					
(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.					
1-14-11 Craig Ther Kimmel Laurett Attorney-at-law Attorney Attorney Attorney	a P. Melendez				
215 540 8886 877-788-2864 Kimm	ele creditlaw.com				

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

] UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 LAURETTA E. MELENDEZ, 4 Plaintiff 5 Case No.: ٧. 6 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 7 JURY TRIAL Defendant 8 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 COMPLAINT 10 LAURETTA E. MELENDEZ ("Plaintiff"), by her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, 11 P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"): 12 13 14 INTRODUCTION 15 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 16 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 17 18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 19 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 20 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 21 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 22 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 23 3. Defendant conducts business and has an office in the Commonwealth of 24 25 Pennsylvania and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.

- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Owings Mills, Maryland, 21117.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road in Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044.
- Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6),
 and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 16. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Beginning on or around 2009 and continuing until March of 2010, Defendant, its agents, employees, and servants, engaged in debt collection activities seeking payment from Plaintiff.
- 18. Defendant, its employees and servants harassed Plaintiff by making continuous calls to her cellular telephone number and home telephone number.
- 19. Plaintiff received phone calls and voice messages from Defendant on a number of occasions from the following phone number (800) 759-2224. The undersigned has confirmed that the number belongs to Defendant.
- 20. Defendant has been contacted Plaintiff at times of the day that fall outside of the acceptable convenient times for communicating with a consumer, which are after 8 o'clock antemeridian and before 9 o'clock postmeridian, local time at the consumer's location.
- 21. Defendant continued to contact Plaintiff even after Plaintiff informed Defendant not to contact her any more.
- 22. After the initial correspondence with Defendant, Plaintiff has still not received a letter notifying her of her rights and privileges under the law, specifically the right to dispute and/or request verification of the alleged debt.
 - 23. Upon information and belief, Defendant sought to collect a debt from Plaintiff

despite the fact that it had no knowledge of its validity.

24. Defendant's actions in attempting to collect the alleged debt were harassing, abusive and highly deceptive.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 26. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services. Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 27. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous,

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and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 28. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
 - Defendant violated of the FDCPA generally;
 - b. Defendant violated § 1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA when it contacted the Plaintiff at an unusual time or place or a time and place known or should be known to be inconvenient to the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt; specifically in the absence of knowledge of circumstances to the contrary, a debt collector shall assume that the convenient time for communicating with a consumer is after 8 o'clock antemeridian and before 9 o'clock postmeridian, local time at the consumer's location;
 - c. Defendant violated § 1692d of the FDCPA by harassing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt;
 - d. Defendant violated § 1692d(5) of the FDCPA, when it caused the Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to harass, annoy

or abuse Plaintiff;

- e. Defendant violated § 1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
- f. Defendant violated § 1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false representations or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
- g. Defendant violated § 1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
- h. Defendant violated § 1692g of the FDCPA by failing to send written notification, within five (5) days after its initial communication with Plaintiff, advising Plaintiff of her rights to dispute the debt or request verification of the debt;
- Defendant acted in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failed to comply with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURETTA E. MELENDEZ, respectfully pray for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §

 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA pursuant to
 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, LAURETTA E. MELENDEZ, demands a jury

By:

trial in this case.

DATED: 1-14-11

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KIMMEL, & SILVERMAN, P.C..

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID # 57100

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888

Fax: (215) 540-8817

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com